



Minutes of a meeting of the Tararua District Council held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 28 May 2025 commencing at 9:30 am.

1. Present

Her Worship the Mayor - Mrs T H Collis, Crs E L Peeti-Webber (Deputy Mayor), N L Chase, A K Franklin, S M Gilmore, P A Johns, M F Long, K A Sutherland, S A Wallace and S M Wards

In Attendance

Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mrs K Tani	- Group Manager – Strategy and Information
Ms S Lowe	- Group Manager – People, Capability and Customer Experience
Mr H Featonby	- Group Manager - Operations
Ms J Smith	- Legal Counsel and Procurement Manager (via Teams)
Mr P Wimsett	- Chief Advisor
Mr J Single	- Regulatory Services Manager
Mrs S Walshe	- Finance Manager
Mrs B Fowler	- Senior Financial Accountant
Ms E Roberts	- Revenue Manager
Ms A Charmley	- Planning Services Manager
Mrs S Fountaine	- Community Engagement Officer
Mrs A Dunn	- Manager – Democracy Services

2. Council Prayer

The Mayor opened the meeting with the Council Prayer.

3. Apologies

There were no apologies.

4. Petition

4.1 Petition Against Closure of Dannevirke Information Centre

Alison Amboy presented her petition against the closure of the Dannevirke

Information Centre, with 463 signatures. The statement of petition was: *“The Dannevirke Information Centre is an important service that supports and provides many services in the Dannevirke. It is a vital resource for those in our area who may not be as comfortable with digital technology, offering them a space where they can access the knowledge and services they need. The Dannevirke Information Centre acts as a crucial hub for promoting local businesses and tourism. This centre provides the visibility they need and fosters economic growth, bringing more opportunities and jobs to our community. Closing this centre would mean a significant loss of resources and support. Not only would it impact individuals who rely on its services, but it would also diminish our community’s capacity to support local commerce and tourism. Join me in calling for action to save the Dannevirke Information Centre. Please sign this petition to show your support and help secure a vibrant future for our community.”*

In speaking to the petition she noted her concerns that there was no information in the Long Term Plan regarding the planned closure of the information centre, that the decision to close the information centre was not publicly communicated and the community were not able to have their say on this decision, gave an example of a decision taken by the Council to provide an interest free loan to an organisation in the southern part of the district and her opinion that this funding should have been directed to the information centre instead, and that the Council was not seeking to keep the employee of the information centre. She asked that the Council reconsider the decision to close the information centre or re-open consultation on this matter.

That the petition be received.

Crs Peeti-Webber/Gilmore

Carried

5. Public Forum

5.1 Public Forum – Pahiatua Menz Shed

Brian Dent, of Pahiatua Menz Shed spoke about the number of Menz Sheds in New Zealand, which were about 187 and outlined their purpose as a social centre for retired men, where they share skills and give back to the community. He spoke about how at their shed they have carpenters, engineers, electricians, many skills. As a group they have become involved with many organisations within Pahiatua. Their need is for a permanent home. So far, they have been going for five years and have had three homes. The owners of their current premises were not willing to enter into a lease arrangement with them, and has come to Council to seek use of a council building for their activity. They have 13 members at the moment. He felt there were a number of buildings in Pahiatua that Council owned, and would appreciate support from Council for providing premises for them. In response to questions about any particular buildings he was interested in, he noted there was a building at the recycling centre that they were interested in using. It was advised the building at the recycling centre was not available, however there were a number of empty buildings in Pahiatua that

were not Council owned that could be potential premises. It was also suggested that publicity through the local newspaper could be useful in finding premises.

6. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Nil

7. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in Relation to this Meeting's Items of Business

Nil

8. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 April 2025 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meetings.

Crs Wallace/Chase

Carried

That the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 7 May 2025 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meetings.

Crs Johns/Wards

Carried

That the minutes of Extraordinary Council meeting held on 21 May 2025 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meetings.

Crs Johns/Peeti-Webber

Carried

9. Community Boards and Community Committees Reports

9.1 Minutes - Explore Pahiatua Community Committee

That the minutes of the Explore Pahiatua Community Committee meeting held 07 May 2025 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Long

Carried

9.2 Minutes - Positively Woodville Community Committee

That the minutes of the Positively Woodville Community Committee meeting held 6 May 2025 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Long

Carried

9.3 **Minutes - Eketahuna Community Board**

That the minutes of the Eketāhuna Community Board meeting held 12 May 2025 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Long

Carried

9.4 **Minutes - Dannevirke Community Board**

That the minutes of the Dannevirke Community Board meeting held 19 May 2025 be received.

Crs Gilmore/Long

Carried

10. Reports

10.1 **Proposed Alternate Electricity for Dannevirke Wastewater Operation - Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-a-Rua Charitable Trust Solar System**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Chief Advisor dated 16 May 2025 that sought to obtain from Council to finalise a right to occupy and electricity supply contract for a floating solar array on Pond 4 of the Dannevirke Wastewater pond at 122 Makirikiri Road, Dannevirke.

Lorraine Stephenson, Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-a-Rua, and Matiu Taurau and Anthony Pearse of Tu Mai Ra Energy, were in attendance to answer questions about the proposal.

The Chief Advisor spoke about the service level improvements expected, the cost savings, and impact of improving resilience for the wastewater treatment plant.

In response to questions, clarification was provided that the Council would receive power from the floating array, there would be no additional cost to Council for the connection, and that the Council would pay for power used at the discounted rate. Assurance was sought around insurance for any damage that may be caused by the array, for example should it break free during a storm and damage the pond liner, and it was noted that the Runanga had insurance to cover such matters.

Mr Matiu Taurau, Chief Executive of Tu Mai Ra Energy, gave a presentation that provided background on the project and outlined the business case for the project.

Councillor Long left the meeting at 10:40am and returned at 10:43am

The Chief Executive noted that the proposed agreement would be brought before Council to ensure there was comfort with the agreement being entered into.

That the report from the Chief Advisor dated 16 May 2025 concerning the

Proposed Alternate Electricity for Dannevirke Wastewater Operation - Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-a-Rua Charitable Trust Solar System be received.

That Council authorise the Chief Executive to proceed to enter the necessary agreements with Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-a-Rua Charitable Trust for the supply of electricity and in turn for Council to provide a right to occupy the land on which Pond 4 and some adjacent land for the purpose of constructing, generating, transmitting and storing electricity by way of a floating solar array The Solar System”.

Crs Sutherland/Johns

Carried

Cr M Long recorded his vote against the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 11:38am and resumed at 11:58am.

10.2 Deliberation on matters raised through Local Water Done Well Consultation

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Chief Advisor dated 07 May 2025 that presented the results of the public consultation on the Local Water Done Well proposal, and sought discussion on each of the matters raised through the consultation, and sought a decision on the future of Water Services delivery for adoption by Council at its June 2025 meeting.

The Chief Advisor noted that the Council was at the point of needing to determine whether the Tararua District Council would stand alone, or would enter into the Council-controlled organisation model with the Wairarapa Councils. He noted the three Wairarapa Councils had agreed to proceed with the Council-controlled organisation model, with some caveats and ideas that would be included in the decision-making report that would be brought before Council at its meeting scheduled for 11 June 2025.

He spoke about:

- Benefits
- Ring fencing for pricing to prevent cross subsidisation
- Controls from organisations such as the Local Government Funding Agency, Commerce Commission and Taumata Arowai
- Development contributions
- Statement of expectations
- Then shareholder input to the strategy

He noted that work was currently underway on the key documents for this, and highlighted that none of this was voluntary, it was required via an Act of

Parliament.

He further noted the Government's indications that additional regulation would be coming for three waters, and the opportunity to reduce costs by working with other councils.

Clarification was sought on the percentage of debt that can be transferred to the new entity. In response it was noted that the Department of Internal Affairs had identified two models in their report to the Council last year, which would be based on what Wai+T model looked like. The Chief Advisor explained the internal borrowing component, which would be what each council brings as net equity per connection for the services. In response to whether shareholding in the entity would be proportional and if so, whether that impact Council's voice within the entity, it was noted that the way that Councils influence the Council-controlled organisation would be through the Letter of Expectation. The Statement of Intent would then come back from the Council-controlled organisation to the Councils.

In response to a questions about whether it would it be possible for the Tararua District Council to complete an enhanced status quo plan as well to enable the community to see what it would look like as a comparison, it was noted that the problem would be in developing all of the other material that is required in the Act. The Chief Executive noted that the decision required by the Council needed to be based on the merit of information currently before Council, and that matters of concerns being raised were matters for consideration at the negotiating table. He highlighted the significant changes that would be required should Council decide to set up a single-council entity, and the additional costs that would apply to comply with the new regulations when they were introduced. It was advised that should a member Council not continue with the Council-controlled organisation model, then officers would come back to the Council with additional options at that point.

That the report from the Chief Advisor dated 07 May 2025 concerning the Deliberation on matters raised through Local Water Done Well Consultation be received.

That the late submission received on 7 May 2025 from S Hammond be accepted.

That responses to matters raised through submissions be made as set out in Section 5 of the report of the Chief Advisor dated 7 May 2025.

That Option 1, the Joint Wairarapa Tararua Council Controlled Organisation option, be submitted to Council for adoption on 11 June 2025 for the delivery of Water Services in the Tararua District.

Mayor Collis/Wards

Carried

Cr M Long recorded his vote against the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 1:49pm and resumed at 2:17pm.

10.3 **Contestable Fund Round 2**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 17 April 2025 that presented the assessment and funding recommendations for the contestable funds applications. The following declarations of interest were made, with Councillors not participating in the debate or decision-making on applications where they had a conflict of interest:

Mayor Collis: Friends of the Dannevirke Domain

Councillor Peeti-Webber: Dannevirke Community Board

Councillor Johns: Woodville Bowling Club, Woodville Art Society

Councillor Wards: Dannevirke Sports Club

Councillor Gilmore: Tararua REAP

The report briefly outlined the evaluation process, including criteria used to assess applications and the collaborative scoring approach undertaken by key stakeholders.

With regard to the funding criteria, it was noted that there was a need to provide more clarity to guide applicants.

During consideration of the funding applications, the Council agreed to consider a number of these separately where members disagreed with the officers' recommended funding.

With regard to applications received from individuals for support for competing in international events as a representative, the Council noted the previous parameters of the International Representatives Fund, which set a funding limit dependent on whether the event was being held in Australasia or further afield. The Council proposed setting these amounts by resolution for clarity.

That the following amounts apply to requests for funding for International Representatives:

Domestic travel - \$500 per competitor

Australia travel - \$1,000 per competitor

International travel - \$1,500 per competitor

Crs Peeti-Webber/Chase

Carried

That Lucas Knight be granted \$1,500 from the Contestable Fund.

Crs Peeti-Webber/Chase

Carried

That Ruahine Ramblerz be granted \$1,578.50 from the Contestable Fund.

Crs Wallace/Chase

Carried

That Cape Turnagain Golf Club be granted \$1,000 from the Contestable Fund.

Crs Peeti-Webber/Chase

Carried

That the Ruahine Māori Wardens 1997 be granted \$2,000 from the Contestable Fund.

Crs Chase/Collis

Carried

That Te Ahu a Turanga Marae be granted \$500 from the Contestable Fund towards the Matariki event.

Crs Gilmore/Johns

Carried

That Woodville Art and History Inc be granted \$1,500 from the Contestable Fund.

Crs Gilmore/Franklin

Carried

That the Dannevirke Community Board be granted \$5,000 from the Contestable Fund.

Crs Wallace/Gilmore

Carried

That the Dannevirke Sports Club Inc be granted \$2,000 from the Contestable Fund.

Crs Wallace/Sutherland

Carried

That the Eketāhuna Golf Club Inc be granted \$1,920.50 from the Contestable Fund.

Crs Gilmore/Peeti-Webber

Carried

That the report from the Group Manager - Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 17 April 2025 concerning the Contestable Fund Round 2 be received.

That the application for Te Tahua o Rangitane Limited, is not awarded the pre-allocated \$10,000.

That allocation of final amounts, to the total of \$50,000 be determined as follows:

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>	<i>Amount Recommended</i>	<i>Amount Allocated</i>
<i>Te Tahua o Rangitane Limited</i>	<i>\$20,000.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Pahiatua Bowling Club</i>	<i>\$4,284.70</i>	<i>\$1,500.00</i>	<i>\$1,500.00</i>
<i>Mr Aidan Lyons</i>	<i>\$3,744.52</i>	<i>\$3,500.00</i>	<i>\$3,500.00</i>
<i>Friends of Mangatainoka-Pahiatua Cemetery</i>	<i>\$9,462.00</i>	<i>\$2,000.00</i>	<i>\$2,000.00</i>
<i>Ruahine Ramblerz</i>	<i>\$1,578.50</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$1,578.50</i>
<i>Dannevirke Bowling Club (inc)</i>	<i>\$6,458.84</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Eketahuna Golf Club Incorporated</i>	<i>\$8,000.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$1,941.50</i>
<i>Te Rehunga Public Hall Society</i>	<i>\$26,222.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Ngati Kahungunu ki Tamaki-nui-a-Rua</i>	<i>\$16,800.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$4,500.00</i>
<i>Dannevirke Gallery of History</i>	<i>\$6,974.00</i>	<i>\$2,115.00</i>	<i>\$2,115.00</i>
<i>Makirikiri Marae Komiti</i>	<i>\$6,300.00</i>	<i>\$2,000.00</i>	<i>\$2,000.00</i>
<i>Friends of the Dannevirke Domain</i>	<i>\$22,042.29</i>	<i>\$10,940.00</i>	<i>\$10,940.00</i>
<i>Ruahine School Parents for Kids</i>	<i>\$9,669.97</i>	<i>\$5,000.00</i>	<i>\$1,500.00</i>
<i>Pahiatua Junior Football Club</i>	<i>\$2,835.00</i>	<i>\$2,835.00</i>	<i>\$2,835.00</i>
<i>Dannevirke Community Board</i>	<i>\$24,408.00</i>	<i>\$2,500.00</i>	<i>\$5,000.00</i>
<i>Cape Turnagain Golf Club</i>	<i>\$1,000.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$1,000.00</i>
<i>Lucas Knight</i>	<i>\$15,000.00</i>	<i>\$10,000.00</i>	<i>\$1,500.00</i>
<i>Tararua REAP</i>	<i>\$1,880.00</i>	<i>\$410.00</i>	<i>\$410.00</i>
<i>A L Clarke Shearing Ltd</i>	<i>\$9,500.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Ormondville Hall & Domain Board</i>	<i>\$21,000.00</i>	<i>\$4,000.00</i>	<i>\$4,000.00</i>
<i>Woodville Bowling Club</i>	<i>\$2,200.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Woodville Art & History, Inc.</i>	<i>\$3,210.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$1,500.00</i>
<i>Dannevirke Community Garden</i>	<i>\$6,000.00</i>	<i>\$2,000.00</i>	<i>\$2,000.00</i>
<i>Dannevirke Regent Cinema Inc</i>	<i>\$5,000.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Dannevirke Sports Club Incorporated</i>	<i>\$5,000.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$2,000.00</i>
<i>Ormondville Rail Preservation Group Inc</i>	<i>\$18,000.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Weber Community Committee</i>	<i>\$700.00</i>	<i>\$700.00</i>	<i>\$700.00</i>
<i>Ruahine Maori Wardens 1997</i>	<i>\$7,000.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$2,000.00</i>
<i>Te Ahu A Turanga Marae</i>	<i>\$2,564.12</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Lumina Solar</i>	<i>\$13,218.35</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Jamie Monaghan</i>	<i>\$4,000.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>

	Total	\$285,052.29	\$50,000.00	
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That eligibility criteria be reviewed and agreed upon for future rounds.

That Council adopt different assessment process for future rounds, as outlined in Option 1 - A panel comprising the Mayor, Tamaki Nui-A-Rua Māori Ward Councillor, Southern Ward Councillor, and Northern Ward Councillor collaboratively reviews and scores applications, with their determinations being final.

Crs Peeti-Webber/Gilmore

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 3:53pm and resumed at 3:54pm.

It was noted that items related to the Finance Management Report and Third Quarter Report on results would be left lying on the table and brought back to the table at the next extraordinary meeting of Council.

10.4 Urban Enhancement Strategy

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 13 May 2025 that provided the final draft of the Urban Enhancement Strategy and sought to proceed to engage with the public for feedback on the strategy from 2 June 2025 to 27 June 2025. Clarification was sought on the purpose of engagement on the strategy, noting the amount of consultation and engagement being put out to the community, and it was advised that the outcomes and benefits for the community after it has been adopted would be a long term strategy, and it was noted this was funded through the better off funding.

It was noted that feedback from the community was needed for Council to adopt a strategy, and advice provided on how the strategy would fit in with the District Plan Review and the value it would bring to the towns in the district.

That the report from the Group Manager - Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 13 May 2025 concerning the Urban Enhancement Strategy be received.

That Council agrees to notify the public of the Urban Enhancement Strategy for the purpose of seeking feedback on the strategy.

Crs Johns/Wallace

Carried

Councillors Franklin and Gilmore recorded their votes against the motion.

10.5 Regulatory Services Report 1 February 2025 to 30 April 2025

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Regulatory Services Manager dated 15 May 2025 that provided an update of the statistical

information provided by Regulatory Services for information purposes only. It was noted that a software glitch had removed the figures from one table within the report. The figures missing were noted as being for abandoned vehicles, 31 and noise complaints, 300.

That the report from the Regulatory Services Manager dated 15 May 2025 concerning the Regulatory Services Report 1 February 2025 to 30 April 2025 be received.

Crs Wards/Wallace

Carried

10.6

Chief Executive Recruitment – Timeline and Process

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Group Manager – People, Capability and Customer Experience dated 20 May 2025 that sought Council's endorsement of the proposed recruitment timeline guide and process for the appointment of a new Chief Executive, ensuring alignment with the 2025 local government election cycle.

An explanation was sought on how the appointment of an Interim Chief Executive, would work.

That the report from the Group Manager - People, Capability and Customer Experience dated 20 May 2025 concerning the Chief Executive Recruitment – Timeline and Process be received.

That the proposed recruitment timeline and process be endorsed, including approval to initiate the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for recruitment agency services, and confirmation that the evaluation of proposals will take place at a Council meeting scheduled following the close of the RFP period.

Crs Sutherland/Johns

Carried

10.7

Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 19 May 2025 that provided information on the requests for information received under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 19 May 2025 concerning the Requests for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 be received.

Crs Johns/Long

Carried

11. Correspondence

Nil

12. Portfolio Reports

- 12.1 Councillor S M Wards spoke about her recent attendance as Council's representative at the Rural Health Conference, now called Hauora Tai Whenua. She noted there were 540 delegates across a range of sectors, with relevant presentations from Hon Matt Doocey, Associate Minister of Health and Clayton Irving who reminded attendees of health outcomes for vulnerable communities, the definition of which now included the rural communities. She spoke about the changes in health over the years from the point of technology and gave the example of point of care testing, which improved access for rural communities. She reflected on the potential for local government to have influence, speaking about the opportunities coming up, and the importance of membership to Hauora Tai Whenua.

It was suggested that a letter go out to other Councils encouraging them to become members of Hauora Tai Whenua.

13. Mayoral Matters

Nil

14. Items not on the Agenda

Nil

There being no further business the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 4:48pm.

Mayor